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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 199
By Rinks

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Coleman Smith for his
laudable service to the Farmers and Merchants
Bank and the City of Adamsville.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as economic and
community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy person is Coleman Smith, who will be recognized at a
roast and appreciation dinner on May 5, 2001 at the Community Center in Adamsville with all
proceeds benefiting the United Way Fund; and

WHEREAS, Early in his life, Mr. Smith began living by the philosophy that "a man ought
to leave the world a better place than when he found it"; Adamsville and its surrounding areas
continues to be a better place because of the efforts of Coleman Smith; and

WHEREAS, A native of Adamsville, Tennessee, he was born on November 15, 1912 to
Robert and Lissie Smith; and

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WHEREAS, A distinguished scholar, Coleman Smith graduated from Adamsville High School in 1930, and attended Lambuth College and West Tennessee Business College in Jackson; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Lambuth, Mr. Smith became a teacher in the McNairy County Public School System, teaching at both Michie and Stantonville during the 1930s; he served for two years as Principal of Selmer Elementary and also coached the Selmer High School Boys Basketball team for one year; and

WHEREAS, He worked as a toll collector on the Tennessee River Bridge at Savannah from late 1939-43; and began working part-time at Farmers and Merchants Bank in Adamsville in 1941; and

WHEREAS, He was elected President of the Bank in 1943 and served as its CEO, except for the time he served in the United States Army, until the bank was sold in March of 1984; and

WHEREAS, In September 1944, Coleman Smith was stationed at Camp McClain, Mississippi and Camp Livingston, Louisiana for Basic Training, and served bravely in the South Pacific Theater with the 728th Engineer Company, attached to the Fourth Army, for 16 months; his last military assignment was at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith returned to his duties at Farmers and Merchants Bank after receiving his honorable discharge, and during his illustrious sixty-year tenure, the bank experienced many changes, going from hand-cranked posting machines to modern day computers; and

WHEREAS, Although he is now officially retired, Coleman still remains interested in the future of the Bank; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the Farmers and Merchants Bank, he still found time to lend his remarkable talents to many civic organizations, including the West Tennessee Industrial Association, which he helped organize; he has also served as County Chairman for

the United Way of McNairy County from 1989 to the present, is a member of the United Way of West Tennessee's Board of Directors, and has chaired the United Way Drive, raising thousands of dollars in donations that were directed and used for the betterment of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Coleman Smith has been a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America for many years; he served on the West Tennessee Board of Directors and was presented with the Silver Bear Award for his work in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is a long-time member of the Adamsville Lions Club, serving two terms as President; he worked with the Lions Club Horse Show for 50 years, many of those years as the Emcee; on the fiftieth anniversary of the Horse Show the local Lion's Club honored Mr. Smith for his years of devoted service to the Show, the Town of Adamsville, and McNairy County; and

WHEREAS, a valuable and active community leader, he has served on the Town of Adamsville Planning Commission for a number of years, the McNairy County Industrial Committee, and as a member of the McNairy County Commission for thirty-two years, and during his stay on the Commission, he served astutely as Chairman of the Budget Committee in addition to his service on various other committees; and

WHEREAS, Coleman Smith was elected to the office of Mayor of Adamsville in 1941, a position in which he served with distinction until he joined the U.S. Army in 1944; he was reelected as Mayor in 1946 and served until 1953; and

WHEREAS, he was reelected Mayor again in 1955 and served for a total of ten two-year terms; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his remarkable tenure as Mayor he distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, aptly coining Adamsville's motto, "the Biggest little town in Tennessee," which is still used today; and

WHEREAS, During Mr. Smith's service in the Adamsville city government he readily supported numerous community school and youth programs and was instrumental in local

building and financing, especially in regards to the farm population during the agriculture era; and

WHEREAS, Since his childhood, Coleman Smith has been a faithful and valued member of the First United Methodist Church; he has held numerous official positions in the church, including that of Sunday School Superintendent, Lay Leader, Chairman of the Official Board, and Sunday School Teacher of the “Coleman Smith Class” for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, In his leisure time, Mr. Smith enjoys quail hunting, watching University of Tennessee Volunteer Football and Lady Vols Basketball; and

WHEREAS, All his accomplishments aside, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of over 66 years, Thelma Wyatt Smith; they are the proud parents of three beautiful children, Barbara, Robert and Sue; and

WHEREAS, Coleman Smith epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Smith for his dedication and commitment to excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Mr. Coleman Smith for his meritorious service to the Farmers and Merchants Bank and the City of Adamsville, congratulate him on the celebratory program and dinner to be held in his honor, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.